On a request from the State Government, it has been decided that subject to availability of funds and the requisite clearances of the Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance, the Department of Civil Aviation would undertake further, development of the aerodrome. The estimates for the remaining earth work are under preparation.

Payment of DA instalments to the Central Government employees

*32. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the insrease in the price index, more instalments of DA have become due for payment to the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, what is the number of DA instalments which have become due for payment to the Central Government employees as on the 30th June, 1984; and

(c) whether Government propose to release all the DA instalments in view of considerable increase in the prices of essential commodities; and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Consequent on average index crossing 528, 536, 544 and 552 points at the end of December, 1983, January, 1984, March, 1984 and May; 1984; four instalments of Dearness Allowance have become due for consideration with effect from 1-1-1984, 1-2-1984, 1-4-1984 and 1-6-1984 respectively.

Payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and relief to pensioners costs the exchequer approximately Rs. 70 crores and Rs. 8 crores per annum respectively. Therefore the question of payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowanee has to be considered carefully with regard to their impact on the economic situation and the budget. The question of sanction for payment of these instalments is receiving the attention of the Government.

Raids on Film actors' premises

*33. SHRI BHIM RAJ:

SHRI NAND KISHORE BHATT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income-tax authorities have recently raided the office and residential premises of film actors Feroze Khan and Rajesh Khanna;

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof in each case; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) Income Tax Department conducted searches at the office and residential premises of Shri Feroze Khan, Shri Rajesh Khanna and his relatives during the month of June 1984. The searches resultet in seziure of *prima facie* unaccounted assests of Rs. 15 lakhs from Shri Rajesh Khanna and his relatives. No valuables have been seized from Shri Feroze Khan. The documents seized in course of searches are that scrutiny for taking appropriate steps under various direct taxes acts.

Free Trade Zone at Falta, West Bengal

*34. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made regarding the scheme to build a Free Trade Zone at Falta in West Bengal; and

(b) what are the salient features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b) The Export Processing Zone (EPZ) at Falta in West Bengal like similar other free trade zones, will be a multi-product export-oriented zone. Some of the steps taken for the EPZ at Falta include:

(i) The Development Commissioner of the Zone has been appointed whose office has started functioning at Calcutta.

(ii) The Falta EPZ Authority has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Minister of State for Commerce and the Falta EPZ Board headed by the Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.

(iii) Funds for initial developmental works have been made available.

(iv) Land for setting up the Zone has been made available by the Calcutta Port Trust and some portion of the land for the purpose to be acquired by the State Government has also been procured.

(v) The Government of West Bengal has initiated action for the creation of infrastructural facilities outside the Zone, such as approach roads, power and social infrastructure.

Resumption of flights between Belgaum and Bangalore

*35. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to resume Indian Airlines flights between Belgaum and Bangalore; and

(b) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) Not at present, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Smugglers detained under COFEPOSA

*36. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of smugglers detained under COFEPOSA as on the 1st July, 1984;

(b) what is the quantum and value of goods seized from them; and

(c) the manner in which the confiscated goods were disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) The number of persons under actual detention under the COFEPOSA Act as on 1st July, 1984 was 438.

(b) The value of contraband goods seized throughout the country during the year 1984 (upto June) was Rs. 49.29 crores*. The statistics regarding the seizures made from the smugglers detained under COFEPOSA Act are not maintained separately However, if the Hon'ble Members desire to have the information in respect of any particular detenus, the same will be collected and furnished.

(c) The mode of disposal of various categories of confiscated goods is annexed to the Statement.

*Figures are provisional.